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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Box PATENT APPLICATION Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

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## TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE MAILING DATE OF FIRST OFFICIAL ACTION [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)]

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants submit herewith patent documents of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the patentability of this application and for which there therefore may be a duty to disclose. These documents are being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being transmitted before receipt of the first Official

Action. Thus, it is believed that no fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized

to credit and/or charge our Deposit Account No. 10-0447 for any overpayment and/or fee deficiency

which may be required in connection with this application.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that

the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material or

information exists. Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to swear behind the effective dates

of any of the references. Applicants further reserve the right to question the relevance and materiality

of the references in whole, in part or in combination subsequent to the filing of this statement.

Disclosed on the attached form PTO-1449 is a listing of the prior art references. The

Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each of the cited references and, after such

consideration, initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the spaces provided next to each reference.

Please return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication transmitted to the

Applicants.

Legible copies of the items listed in Form PTO-1449 accompany this Information Disclosure

Statement. Any markings, underlining, notations or the like present in any reference are not to be

construed as drawing the Examiner's attention to or away from other parts or portions of the

reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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